

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and for indicating that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received. Applicant also expresses gratitude to the Examiner for indicating that claims 8-11 contain allowable subject matter.

Upon entry of the present amendment, the claims will have been amended, objected claim 8 will have been rewritten into independent form as claim 19, no claims will have been canceled, and claims 12-20 will have been newly added. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and a withdrawal of the outstanding rejection together with an indication of the allowability of all the claims in the present application, in due course.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and asserted that in claim 8, the recitation of “having at least one opening and door formed by cutting sides except for one side of a figure drawn on the sharing thereon” is unclear. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 8 to clarify that the door is formed by cutting a piece of the sharing sheet and leaving a portion attached. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, beginning on line 17 of page 5 of Applicant’s specification. As the rejection of claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112 is

P23583.A05

believed to be overcome by the present amendment, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by DESMOND (U.S. Patent 5,022,682). However, Applicant submits that DESMOND does not teach or suggest, inter alia, a sharing sheet that includes at least one aperture that exposes at least one of the background designs when creating an image in a drawing (coloring) space provided on the sharing sheet, as recited in claim 1. Rather, DESMOND is directed towards a book including a transparent page with mirrored images on the front and back of the transparent page. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection and allowance of the claims pending in the present application.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by D'ANDREA (U.S. Patent 5,031,935). However, Applicant submits that D'ANDREA is directed towards a book for young readers containing pages with apertures that superimpose images. Applicant submits that D'ANDREA fails to teach or suggest, inter alia, a sharing sheet that includes at least one aperture that exposes at least one of the background designs when creating an image in a drawing (coloring) space provided on the sharing sheet, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and an indication of allowability.

Furthermore, Applicant submits claims 12-18 for the Examiner's consideration in the present application. With respect to claim 12, neither DESMOND nor D'ANDREA teach or suggest, inter alia, at least one sheet provided with a drawing (coloring) space and an aperture that exposes a background design. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that newly presented claims 12-18 are believed to be allowable and respectfully requests such an indication of allowability from the Examiner.

Applicant also submits claim 19 for the Examiner's consideration. Claim 19 corresponds to objected claim 8, but is presented in independent form including substantially all of the limitations of the base claim and objected claim 8. As the Examiner has indicated that claim 8 contains allowable subject matter, new claim 20 corresponds to objected claim 10. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 19 and 20 along with all of the other claims pending in the present application.

Thus, in view of the amendments and arguments herein, Applicant submits that claims 1, 12, and 19 are in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 2-11, 13-18, and 20, Applicant asserts that they are allowable on their own merit, at least because they depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, claim 12, or claim 19 which the Applicant has shown to be allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of the claims, as well as indication of the allowability of all of the claims.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect. Applicants have amended the claims to enhance clarity only and argued their allowability. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the recited claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

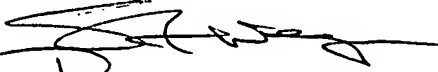
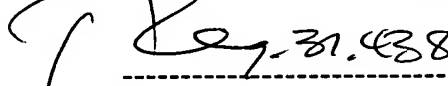
Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

P23583.A05

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,
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